

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35 and 37 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 19, 21, 22 and 31-33 are amended. Claims 14, 18, 29 and 30 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 38 and 39 are added. No new matter is added by way of the claim amendments or new claims. Therefore, after entry of the foregoing claim amendments, claims 1-13, 15-17, 19-28, 31-35, and 37-39 are pending for reconsideration. Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed February 4, 2009, claims 1-13, 15-18, 21-29, and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippmann, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,371,500) in view of Cook (U.S. Patent No. 4,894,864), and claims 14, 19, 20, 30, and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for indicating claims 14, 19, 20, 30 and 31 recite allowable subject matter.

In response to the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 33 are amended to recite substantially the same subject matter as previously recited in claim 14 which the Office Action indicated is allowable. Claim 19 is amended to rewrite the allowable claim in independent form by reciting all the subject matter previously recited in its base claim 1 and intervening claim 18. Independent claim 22 is amended to effectively re-write allowable dependent claim 30 in independent form by reciting all of the subject matter of its base claim 22 and intervening claim 29. Dependent claims 21, 31 and 32 are each amended to depend from one of now allowable independent claims 19 and 22.

Applicants submit that each of amended independent claims 1, 19, 22 and 33 now recites subject matter indicated as allowable by the Office Action dated February 4, 2009. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and the objection to claim 19.

Claims 2-13, 15-17, 20, 21, 23-28, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 37-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 19, 22 and 33. Thus these claims also recite the subject

matter which the Office Action indicated is allowable. Therefore, Applicants submit that each of claims 1-13, 15-17, 19-28, 31-35, and 37-39 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-13, 15-17, 20, 21, 23-28, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 37-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the objections to claims 20 and 31.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s) or credit any overpayment(s) to Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If necessary, Applicant requests, under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application and to charge the fees for a large entity under 37 CFR 1.17(a).

Respectfully submitted,

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